

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-24, and 26-27 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(1-4) The Examiner rejected Claims 1-24, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barber et al. (U.S. Patent 5,579,471).

The presently claimed invention, as recited for Claims 1-24, 26, and 27, recite non-textual, language independent visual representations of both the search object and the domain object when formulating search queries. On the other hand, Barber teaches the use of text based icons when formulating searches. Please see Barber, for example, see FIG. 5 showing text descriptions associated with each icon ("thumbnail") on the display, also see for example column 6, lines 62-63, and for a more general description see column 8, line 66, to column 9, line 48, and also see column 6, lines 17-24.

The new and novel features of the presently claimed invention provide non-textual language independent means for formulating searches, such as discussed in the specification on page 5, lines 3-30. The use of a language independent basis of formulating a query will provide world-wide access to databases not traditionally accessible because of language limitations. This adds significant commercial value that is not taught, anticipated, or suggest, by Barber, or by any of the cited references or any combination thereof.

Accordingly, in view of the remarks above, Applicants believe that the rejection of Claims 1-24, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been overcome, and the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of these claims. Additionally, these claims are all in

condition for allowance, and Applicants kindly request that the Examiner allow these claims to issue as a patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

(5-12) The Examiner rejected Claims 1-24 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,909,678), in view of Barber et al. (U.S. Patent 5,579,471).

The Examiner acknowledges that Bergman “does not specify that the visual representation be non-textual language independent visual representation.” See Office Action, page 6.

As has been previously discussed above, the presently claimed non-textual language independent visual representations of the search object and of the domain object on a display when formulating search queries provides significant commercially valuable features not taught, anticipated, or suggested, by Barber. Both Barber and Bergman, on the other hand, teach the use of text based icons when formulating searches.

The new and novel features of the presently claimed invention, as recited for Claims 1-24 and 26-27, provide non-textual language independent means for formulating searches, such as discussed in the specification on page 5, lines 3-30, which provides significant commercial value that is not taught, anticipated, or suggest, by the Bergman patent teachings, the Barber teachings, or by any combination of the two cited references. For example, the use of a language independent formulating of a search query on a display will provide world-wide access to database search systems that are not traditionally accessible because of language and text limitations. The non-textual language independent visual objects on a display are more intuitive for formulating search queries than text based search query formation. They allow users to benefit from the database search systems across different languages and even if the users are illiterate. This feature

of the presently claimed invention is clearly not taught, anticipated, or suggested by the Bergman reference, the Barber reference, or any combination thereof, as discussed above.

Accordingly, in view of the remarks above, Applicants believe that the rejection of Claims 1-24 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome, and the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of these claims. Additionally, these claims are all in condition for allowance, and Applicants kindly request that the Examiner allow these claims to issue as a patent.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as full and complete response to the Official Action mailed July 12, 2004, and it is submitted that Claims 1-24, and 26-27, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of Claims 1-24, and 26-27, is earnestly solicited.

The present application, after entry of this amendment, comprises twenty-six (26) claims, including four (4) independent claims. Applicants have previously paid for twenty-seven (27) claims including four (4) independent claims. Applicants, therefore, believe that an additional fee for claims is currently not due.


If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities that can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that in any way it would help expedite the prosecution of the patent application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (561) 989-9811 is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1556.

In view of the preceding discussion, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and re-examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/13/04

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